

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 111

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the First Baptist Church of Gallatin on its 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is the First Baptist Church in Gallatin, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on March 15, 2009, and will continue the anniversary observance all year; and

WHEREAS, located on East Main Street in Gallatin, the history of the church dates back to 1859, when it was organized under “fifteen members united in the constitution,” and became the first “House to the Worship of the Almighty God”; and

WHEREAS, the first church building was completed and dedicated in 1860, and it doubled as a hospital during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the original church was struck by lightning in 1897, igniting a fire that completely destroyed the building; and

WHEREAS, the faithful members of the First Baptist Church finished the replacement building in 1898, which was later demolished to make way for a larger building that was occupied in 1949 and is still in use today; and

WHEREAS, all of the buildings have been located on the same site at the historic corner of Boyers and East Main, where many additions and renovations have enhanced the campus, including the addition of the beautiful steeple in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the church has provided faithful assistance and inspiration to the surrounding community during its 150 years of service as a Christian institution, with an

emphasis on benevolence, missions at home and abroad, and biblical teaching and preaching for the welfare of the general public; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with Bledsoe Baptist Association, First Baptist has provided groups of volunteers, equipment, and supplies for work in areas of local disaster and sustained economic hardship; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist has regularly exhibited its patriotism through its annual Patriotic Services and its long tradition of member service in the branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, the church has spread the flame of Christianity, ministering to the daily needs of the membership, the local community, and people across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the congregation has long been an ambassador of goodwill, representing Gallatin and Sumner Counties in its many mission endeavors with young people and adults alike, raising the banner of Christ as they spread His love to the people of the United States and countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, under the outstanding leadership of Pastor Dr. Larry Yarborough, a superior pastoral staff, and an exemplary support team, First Baptist Church continues to be a landmark for worship and service; and

WHEREAS the First Baptist Church of Gallatin is truly one of the great religious institutions and is a catalyst for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exemplary institution should be appropriately honored for their exceptional service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members and leadership of the First Baptist Church of Gallatin on the celebration of the church's 150th anniversary, offering our best wishes for many years of continued success in serving God and humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.